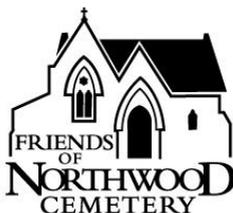


NEWSLETTER NUMBER 23



NOVEMBER 2013

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Secretary David Jones

Treasurer John Pullen

Other Trustees:

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Paul Fuller Tim Gladdis

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EDITORIAL

Last quarter I mentioned that the Board's focus would be on securing funding to restore the **West Chapel** – and so it has been. However, a piece of not-so-good news has entered the fray in the shape of some significant structural movement of the **East Chapel** (noticed during the very dry summer we have just enjoyed) on which we have devoted so much time and effort over the past three years.

Turning adversity into advantage, this disappointment may be tempered by the inclusion of the East Chapel in our Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application for funding. So, securing its well-being *now*, for lifetimes to come, is also in our objectives. Had we left it out of our attention span, as we intended to do only 3 months ago, the structural engineer's view was that it would have needed some serious 'propping up' within 20 years.

This change of plan is as good a reason as any to convey why we did not hit our own self-imposed target of 31st October with our submission to the HLF. None-the-less, our Bid Writers are on the case and expect to finalise all the documentation before Christmas (the HLF have 28th February 2014 as their next deadline for accepting applications; any submitted before then would not be looked at before 1st March 2014 anyway).

There is a lot more to the application than just restoring the Chapels – but it is deemed prudent to keep further information out of the public domain until we have crossed the 't's and dotted the 'i's. More will be revealed, I hope, in the February newsletter.

On other matters: we have a new Membership Secretary and a new Trustee. It proved to be too much of a logistical challenge for **Kate Burhouse** to try to do the Membership Secretary's job from a distance of some 100 miles (in Devon). However, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Kate for all her efforts in trying to make it work.

Thankfully Kate has agreed to use her considerable expertise to compile and distribute this newsletter for which the Trustees are very grateful.

I'm delighted to welcome **Sheila Caws** (see page 6) as our new Membership Secretary and as a new Trustee. I'm also delighted to announce that through the efforts of Kate, Sheila and others we have, *for the 5th year running*, attained a membership of 250 "Friends" who have paid a subscription in the fiscal year (ending March 2014). This is a significant source of funding for us and demonstrates to the HLF (amongst other funders) that we aren't a 'fly-by-night' organisation - but one worthy of their consideration.

Lastly, those of you who have visited our website recently will have noticed a new 'look and feel' to it. To the technically minded of you we have migrated the old website to a new 'Content Management System' which enables multiple Trustees to add content and generally keep the site up-to-date. Most specifically our Historian, **Barry Sowerby**, has added many images of headstones and articles of note of people interred - and he regularly changes the picture on the 'Home Page'. Take a look for yourself!

Jon Matthews

Chairman



The East Chapel, Northwood Cemetery (photo taken on 27th September 2013)

East Chapel, Northwood Cemetery

The **East Chapel** (pictured opposite) fell from favour over twenty years ago and slowly deteriorated into what appeared as a semi derelict building.

One man who loved and respected the Cemetery, and the Chapel, was **Bernie Coleman** who was employed as the resident groundsman for over eight years from 2003 to 2011. He adopted it as his base and stored the equipment of his trade within. Bernie kept it together as best he could, with vain attempts to keep it weatherproof, blocking up missing windows and inventing crude methods for keeping burglars and vandals out; most windows had been completely destroyed and any still intact were broken.

The **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** was formed in 2008 and made it its mandate to restore the Cemetery and its twin Chapels to their former Victorian glory. The **West Chapel** was, and still is, in a deplorable state but, with the backing of a sympathetic Isle of Wight Council, it has been temporarily stabilised in order that it remains standing - whilst efforts to raise funds to fully restore it continue (*Ed: see front page*).

However the **East Chapel** has undergone a significant 'make-over' to bring it back into use (thanks to **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** volunteers - and generous donations over the past 3 years). Windows have been either repaired or replaced, doors re-hung, a new floor laid, heating installed, outer walls re-pointed and sympathetic lighting added.

The Chapel has been suitably decorated and seating is provided for up to 60 people. An electronic organ and a CD player have been donated by generous benefactors making it once again an attractive alternative to the traditional church or crematorium chapel. Although it is a consecrated Church of England Chapel, it is open to all.

The fruits of the Friends' labour were rewarded on 27th September 2013 when the Chapel was utilised for the first time in over twenty years (we cannot be more accurate as no record has been found of the date of the last service held in the Chapel).

The week prior saw dedicated volunteers, sweeping, polishing and dusting in preparation of this long awaited event. For the day **Grave Concerns** were in attendance to give it the final touch with a beautiful, and yet subtle, addition of flowers.

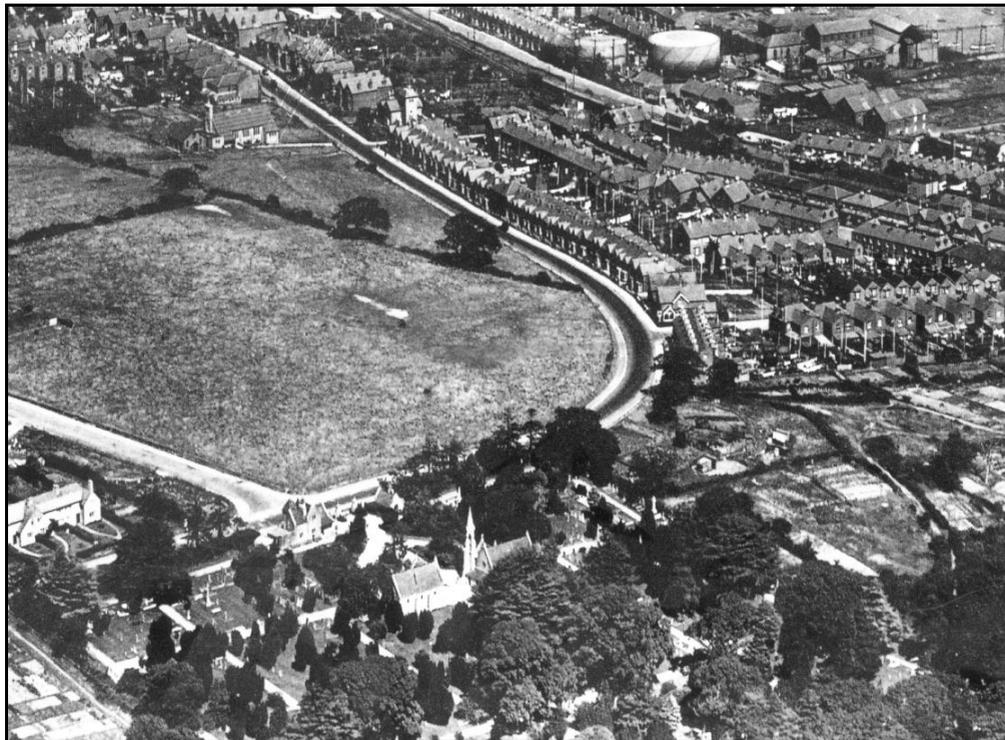
The family of the deceased, who have lived near the Cemetery for over 60 years, gained much comfort in being able to use the Chapel that they had loved (yet had watched deteriorate over many years) and are most grateful to the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** for their tireless efforts.

Barry Sowerby

Historian

Thomas Gladdis and the Cemetery Lodge

From 1865 my great-great-grand parents, **Thomas** and **Jane (née Groves) Gladdis** occupied the Cemetery Lodge. This was behind where the bus stop is today and the concave wall there is on the plans of the Lodge. Thomas had a smallholding (situated where Cowes Medical Centre is today) and he kept pigs there.



Aerial photograph showing the Cemetery Lodge and St Faith's church taken circa 1930

Thomas was born in Shorwell on 24th November 1825; he was named after his father Thomas (1797-1883) and his grandfather Thomas (1762-1840), both of Shalfleet.

By 1827 the family lived in "Tinker's Lane" (*Ed: now Pallance Road, Northwood*). Thomas's father had a £4 per annum tenancy from the landowner George Ward.

Thomas's brother George served as a boy on the frigate *HMS Cambrian*. In August 1845 George, at the age of 19, had his leg amputated in the Royal Navy Hospital, Haslar.

In the Pallance Lane census of 1861 Thomas was a Shipyard Labourer; it seems he and his brothers were quite 'wild': Thomas caused wilful damage to the Anglers Inn at Yarbridge when he assaulted PC Knight who assisted the landlord George Perkins; he was fined 10s for assaulting the police, 2s 6d damages and 7s 6d costs - which he paid under threat of imprisonment; in 1866 his brother George was in Court after having had an altercation in the Horseshoe; whilst the same day his brother Alfred was in Court accused of assault against Game Keeper Charles Bullock.

The West Cowes Burial Board comprised of the great and the good of Cowes and the 19th Century Minutes of the Board are available on the Friends of Northwood Cemetery's website:

<http://www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk/meeting-minutes>

The minutes record that on 15th August 1865 the Board elected Thomas Gladdis as the Lodge Keeper at a wage of 15s per week and 1s per grave.

My great-grandfather **Alfred Gladdis** was born in the Lodge in 1870 where neighbours included Francis Light, uncle of Emma his future wife.

The Burial Board minutes continue: on 6th October 1873 Mr Maurice Dear moved that Mr Gladdis' wages be raised from 15s to 17s per week.

On 6th January 1879, Mr Ogburn moved that all bills and Gladdis's book, together with any other accounts, be bought before the Board at each meeting. Mr Ogburn moved that Mr Gladdis stop the leaks in the Chapel. On 4th January 1883, it was agreed that Gladdis put a drain under the west wall.

In July 1883 Thomas (and his sister Georgina Ward) ratified their father's Will of £54 17s 6d. Thomas is described as "Lodge Keeper".

On 7th July 1890 it was moved that Thomas Gladdis employ another hand for a month. On 16th July 1894 the clerk was directed to write to Mr Gladdis with regard to him having buried a Mr Gerrett in Mrs Willis's grave space.

Thomas died in June 1899 and the position of the Cemetery keeper went to my great-grandfather, Alfred Gladdis. His mother Jane died in July 1901 and was buried by the Rev. Lancelot Smith with Thomas in Plot 15 of the Cemetery

Several descendents of **Thomas** and **Jane Gladdis** live in Cowes today; their lives saw many technological and social changes watching Cowes expand towards the Cemetery.

Les Gladdis

Meet the Trustees: Sheila Caws

Having just joined the Trustees as the new Membership Secretary, I feel that I should take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I have been a member of the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** since the beginning in 2008 but (almost) full-time work did not give much time for getting too involved. However, since the Isle of Wight Council decided, in the interests of economy, to dispense with the services of their Island Heritage Librarian last March, I have had more time to do what I want.

Apart from the newly acquired membership duties, I have been working on the Plot maps - checking which graves have headstones and whether they agree with the burial records (not always the case) before the maps are loaded onto the website. This is an ongoing project and, as I have only just finished Plot 9 out of a potential 45, I still have some way to go!

I am not an Islander although, with the surname of Caws, I obviously married one. I originally came to the Island in 1980 and have lived in the Cowes/Gurnard area ever since. My first job back then was Deputy County Reference Librarian and, two children and a stint at Planning and the Isle of Wight College later, I ended up as the Island Heritage Librarian (as with responsibility for the Local Studies Collection of books and other printed material about the Isle of Wight). The Collection is still at Library HQ at Somerton - even though I am not. Library HQ is very handily placed just over the wall at the top right-hand side of Northwood Cemetery.

So, if you see me wandering up and down the Cemetery peering at gravestones and clutching a clipboard, please feel free to come up and say "hello".

Membership Report

Since August we have been joined by the following new "Friends" (in alphabetic surname order) living in the PO31 Postcode area unless otherwise stated:

Andrew Fassander (Woking, Surrey), **Vicky Hartley**, **Susan Heal** (Queensland, Australia), **Ian Price** (Newport, IW), **Jamie Sowerby**, **Jason Sowerby** (Blackwater), **Kristopher** and **Vanessa Thon** (Newport IW), **Shirley Tipper** (Woking, Surrey), **Michael Warrior** (Southampton), **Keith** and **Ann Williams** (Newport, IW) and **John** and **Susannah Wolfe** (East Cowes).

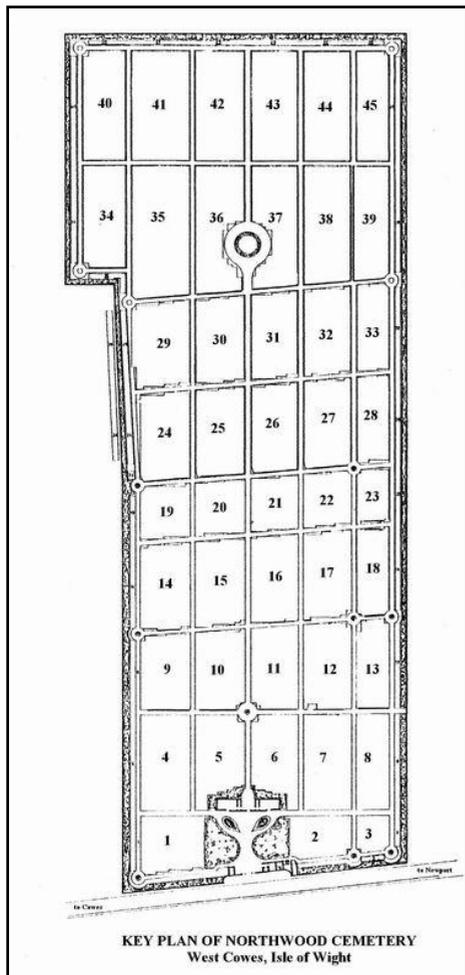
Michael Warrior becomes our 29th Life Member; and **Glenn Lane** in California our 30th!

Sheila Caws

Membership Secretary

Grounds Preservation Report

As the winter looms our current task is the clearance of rhododendrons and bramble from the main centre driveway (close to the bench 'half-way' up the drive and on the intersection of Plots 15, 16, 20 and 21), thus opening up a better vista all round.



We've only had two bonfires following our decision not to burn during the very dry period in the late summer (because of the possibility of fires burning out of control). However, we have continued to transfer as much brash to the bonfire site as we can.

Our next task will be to continue the clearance of old hedge materials, bramble and overhead branches to provide better access and more adherence to Health and Safety in the hedge next to the Cowes Medical Centre.

Tree and Bench Sponsorship

Four trees have been planted and finishing work will be undertaken shortly. Three plaques are on site and have been erected. Unfortunately two of the trees have died - but will be replaced by our suppliers in late autumn at which time the last plaque and all the tree guards will be erected. Further to this, a fifth tree has been sponsored and this will be planted at the same time.

Two more rustic benches, similar to those on the roundabout at the 'top' of the Cemetery, have been ordered and these are available for sponsorship.

Please contact me on 01983 295927 if you are interested.

Richard Day

Grounds Preservation Manager

Easy Fund Raising

easyfundraising
.org.uk



The advertisement is a dark blue banner. On the left is the Friends of Northwood Cemetery logo, which depicts a church building. To the right of the logo, the text reads "Shop online and raise money for Friends of Northwood Cemetery". Below this, a smaller line of text says "Sign-up for free today and start raising donations with over 2,700 top retailers, simply by shopping online, and at no extra cost to you!". On the right side of the banner is a green button with the text "Support us now >". At the bottom of the banner, there is a row of logos for various retailers: amazon.co.uk, John Lewis, M&S, TESCO, vodafone, AVIVA, Expedia, next, and Viking.

It will soon be time to wish “season’s greetings” all round – and the thought of Christmas presents will be looming (if it has not done so already).

For those of you who will be using online purchasing, **please** can you do so through **easyfundraising**. In this way a small percentage of your spend can be directed to the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**. This costs you nothing as it is funded by the supplier and not by you. It is really very simple and all you need to do to set up is go to:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause>

and choose the ‘cause’: **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**.

Then, when you want to make a purchase, make sure you go to the supplier’s website via the **easyfundraising** website (all the big suppliers are listed: Amazon, Currys, M&S, PC World – there are over **1,200** of them!) rather than going directly to their website.

Further, as an *aide memoire* when you get shopping online, there’s a “*Find and Remind*” toolbar that you can install and use its search facilities to find suppliers’ websites - just as you would, for example, use Google. Using this ensures you’ll be raising funds for the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** when you make your purchase online.

Indeed it doesn’t have to be presents you buy; I can raise funds for the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** just by renewing my car insurance through **easyfundraising!**

So far, without much focus, we have raised **£538** by this method – and that from just 23 “Friends” who have registered to date. What sum would, say, 100 “Friends” attain?

It really shouldn’t be too hard to double that over this Christmas period – with your help!

Richard Day

Fund Raising Manager